

# SEASONAL STORIES

When we talk of seasons, we talk of weather. There are different seasons and activities associated with them. A piece of writing about activities associated with particular period is called seasonal feature or seasonal story or seasonal article.

Seasons, as a force of nature, transcend all human life. The seasons dictate the parameters of human life: seasons affect plant life, animal life, the world climate, Earth's natural and seemingly unnatural events, migration, hibernation, and the Earth itself.

Whether one wants to be a seasonal feature writer or not, it is a fact that the activities of a feature desk are also controlled by the calendar and one has to write stories capturing the essence of that part of the calendar to entertain the reader.

Seasonal stories are feature stories connected to a particular time of the year. Such stories could be done only during that particular season or time of the year and present the unique sights and experiences limited to that period of time. Just like seasons recur, such stories could be revisited after a few years, presenting things in new perspective to help the reader reminisce those moments and enjoy them again.

One significant point is that seasonal features should reflect the tone and the theme of the season. Local customs and traditions largely dictate this. A seasonal feature can be ruined with the wrong approach. Failing to capture the theme and tone or writing against the tone would ruin a seasonal feature.

Examples of seasonal stories:

Stories related to vacations, festivals, seasonal fruits, exams and how to tackle exams etc could be written in that particular season and not at other times. Stories on Valentine's Day celebrations, a day at on the beach during rains etc too make good seasonal stories.

The off-season stories in the sports section are also a type of seasonal stories. This is the time of the season when the league or the competition circuit has a vacation and no matches are held. But the sportspersons have to be ready for the next season and therefore there are activities particular to the off-season. Writing about what the players are doing during this period, how they are maintaining their fitness and gearing up for the next season are typical stories that could be done during this period.

As seasonal stories are features, one has to keep in mind that the writing has to be stylised and give the flavour of that particular season. One needs to capture the essence of that particular period, explain its importance and capture the attention of the reader. One should also take care to see that they don't turn into essays that read the same year, it should not become a chore that the a feature writer has to complete every year and thus goes about the job in a mechanical manner – putting on paper usual and known aspects of that particular subject in a routine and haphazard manner. Such a feature writer would not only end up wasting the opportunity to write a good seasonal feature but also put off the readers, killing their interest in such form of writing. If done creatively with interest and with flair, even a recurring topic that may have published by the same newspapers many times in the last few years, could turn out to be a good read and keep the readers engaged.

One reason why journalists write seasonal stories is that people don't have time to physically experience them but they get to experience things particular to that period and thus enjoy them through the newspaper.

Such stories could also be based on the experiences of others and therefore using quotes and anecdotes make stories very interesting and readable.

### **Things to keep in mind while writing a seasonal story**

A unique angle or tone for your story: As the season is not exclusive to you, other writers too will be writing features related to that particular season. So your story has to stand out among all such features. If way to be different is by picking a new or unusual angle. This was keep the reader riveted and also give him a new look at issue. A new perspective and new subjects make seasons stories interesting and grab the attention of the reader.

Always research about the seasonal activity and try and pick a unique aspect for your story.

Keep in mind the time period while writing a seasonal story. It should not appear too early or too late.

Include as many quotes as possible as it bring out the flavour and also give the story a human touch.

Draw comparisons with years gone by. This will make the article interesting and also informative. Recount and suggest anew if you find that certain old practices are no longer being followed.